RUINS, HUH? WON'T IT ALL JUST BE RUBBLE?
MAYBE, BUT I STILL WANT TO SEE FOR MYSELF.
OH, SO IT'S FROM A LONG TIME AGO, THEN.
MASTER TOLD ME ABOUT THIS PLACE BEFORE.
YEAH.

Chapter Three

「A Land with a Past」

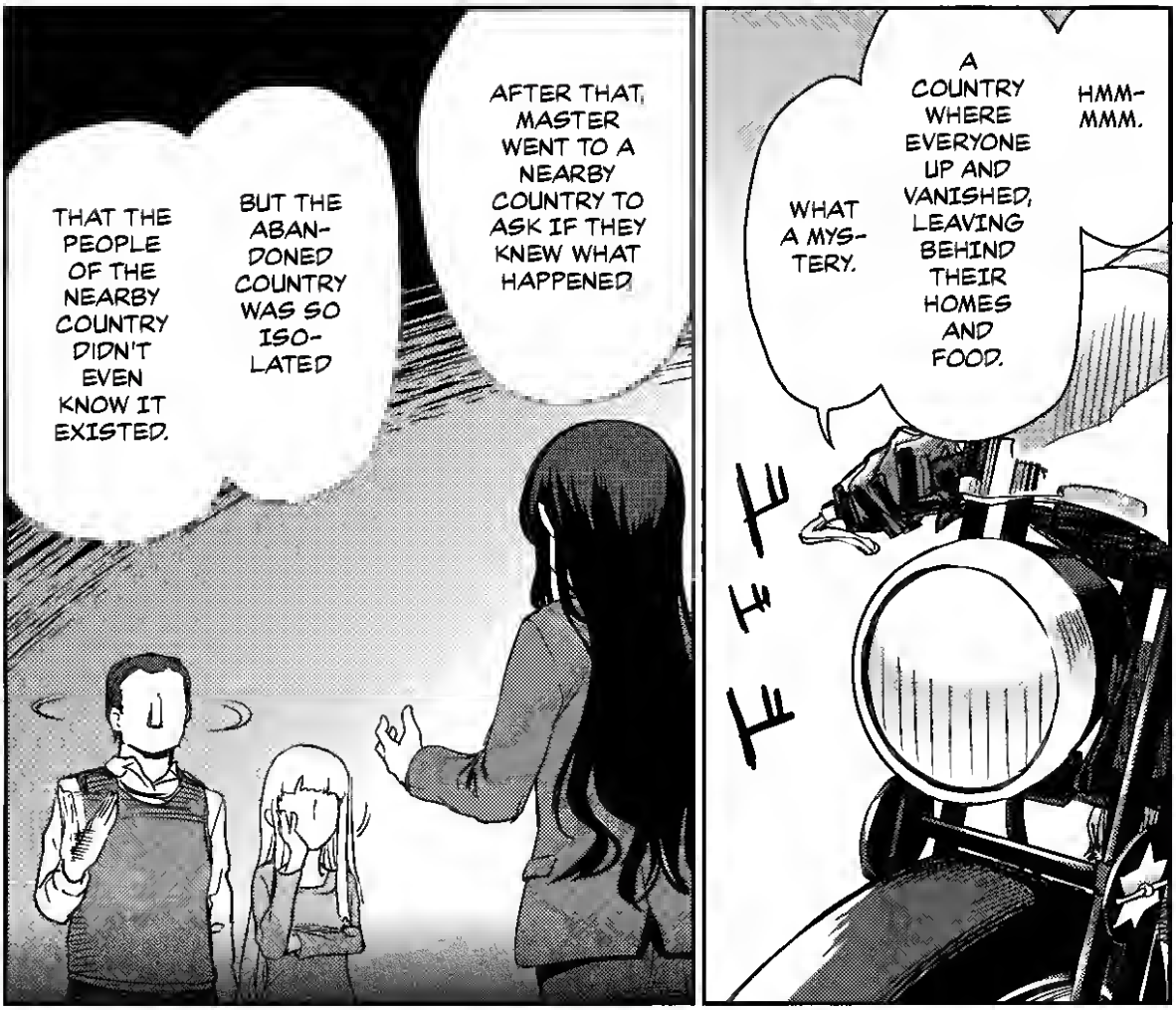
-What We Have Taught.-

"THEY WERE INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL RUINS."

"THE COUNTRY WAS BUILT FROM STONE AT THE FOOT OF A MOUNTAIN."

"IT WAS A LOVELY TOWN THAT LOOKED LIKE IT COULD SUPPORT THOU-SANDS OF PEOPLE,"
OR SO IT GOES.
"CANALS WERE BUILT FOR THE CLEAR SPRING WATER THEY DREW FROM THE GROUND."
MASTER STAYED THERE FOR A FEW DAYS TO INVESTIGATE, BUT SHE NEVER FIGURED IT OUT.
OH, WOW. WHAT DID SHE THINK AT LEAST?
HMM,
IF IT WAS ALL MADE OF STONE, THE TOWN MIGHT STILL BE AROUND.
WHY WAS IT ABAN-DONED?

IF THE RESIDENTS MIGRATED ELSEWHERE, THEY WOULD HAVE TAKEN THEIR BELONGINGS WITH THEM,
BUT ALMOST EVERYTHING WAS STILL THERE.
IF IT WAS DISEASE, THERE WOULD STILL BE BODIES LEFT,
BUT THERE WERE NO VISIBLE REMAINS OR SIGNS OF BURIALS.
IF THERE HAD BEEN CONFLICT, LIKE A WAR, THE COUNTRY WOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED,
BUT IT WAS STILL PERFECTLY INTACT.
SHE SAID THE ONLY THING OUT OF PLACE WAS THAT THE GATE WAS OPEN.
THEY EVEN LEFT BEHIND DRIED MEATS AND GRAINS,
WHICH MASTER OF COURSE HELPED HERSELF TO.


AFTER THAT, MASTER WENT TO A NEARBY COUNTRY TO ASK IF THEY KNEW WHAT HAPPENED.
BUT THE ABAN-DONED COUNTRY WAS SO ISO-LATED
THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE NEARBY COUNTRY DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT EXISTED.
HMM-MMM.
A COUNTRY WHERE EVERYONE UP AND VANISHED, LEAVING BEHIND THEIR HOMES AND FOOD.
WHAT A MYS-TERY.
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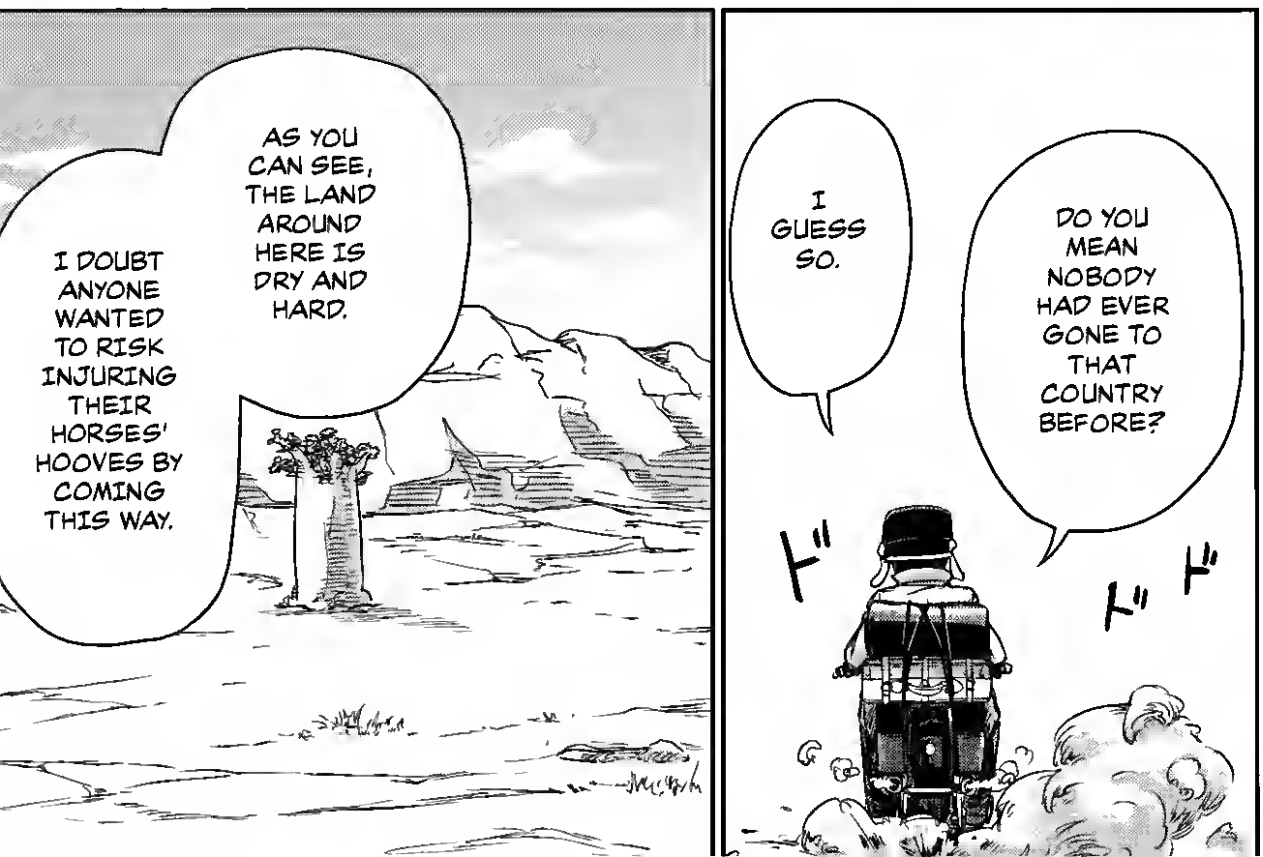
I DOUBT ANYONE WANTED TO RISK INJURING THEIR HORSES' HOOVES BY COMING THIS WAY.
AS YOU CAN SEE, THE LAND AROUND HERE IS DRY AND HARD.
I GUESS SO.
DO YOU MEAN NOBODY HAD EVER GONE TO THAT COUNTRY BEFORE?
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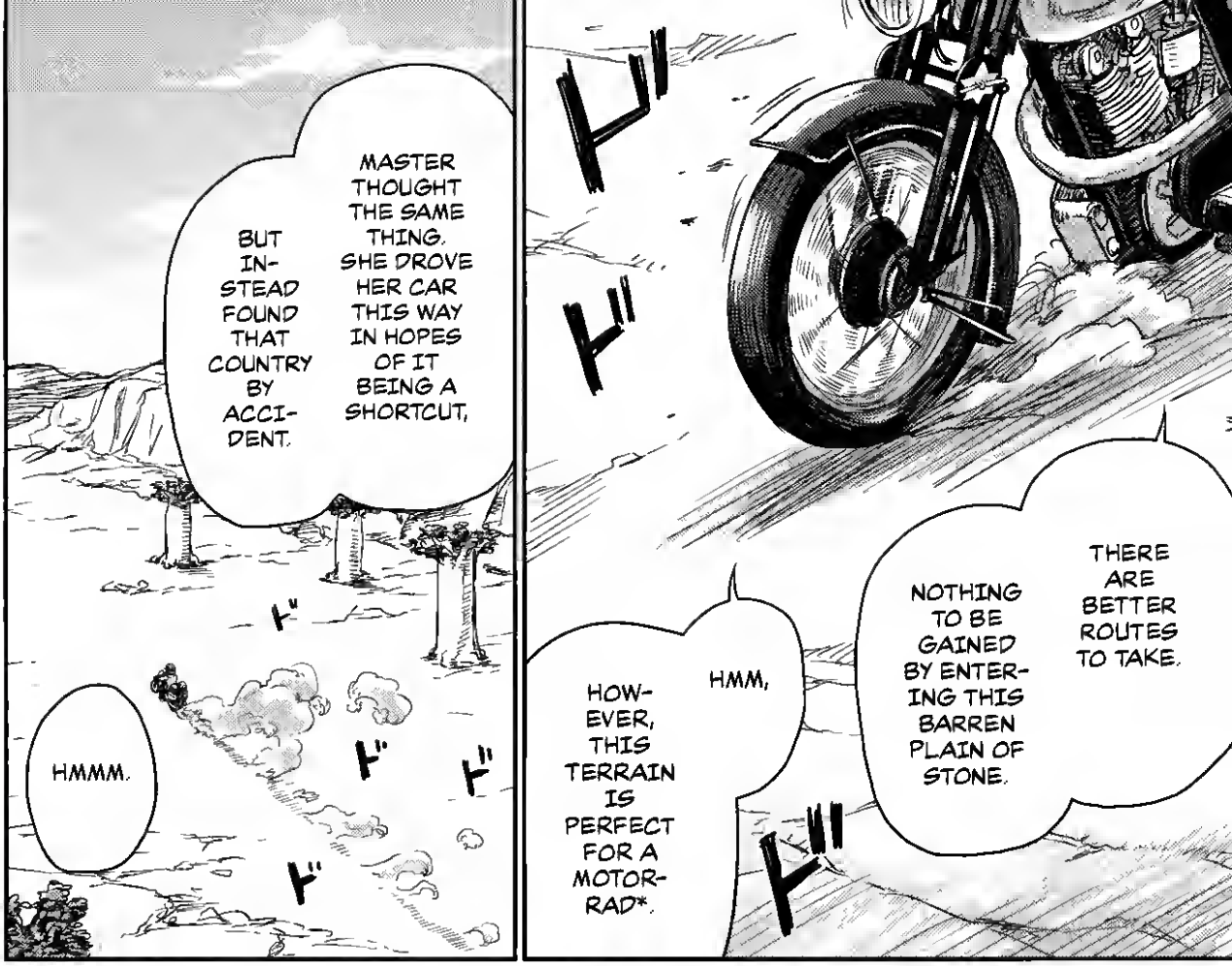
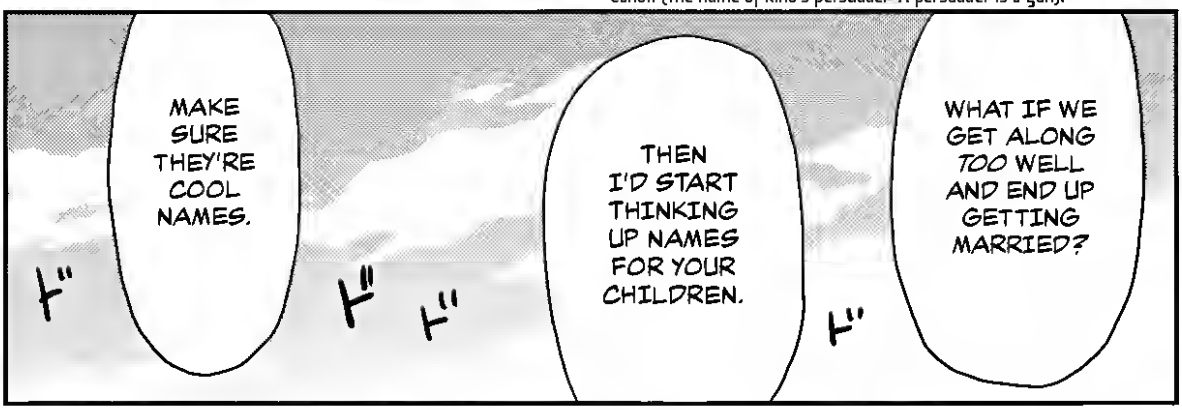

MASTER THOUGHT THE SAME THING. SHE DROVE HER CAR THIS WAY IN HOPES OF IT BEING A SHORTCUT,
BUT IN-STEAD FOUND THAT COUNTRY BY ACCI-DENT.
HMMM.
THERE ARE BETTER ROUTES TO TAKE.
NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY ENTER-ING THIS BARREN PLAIN OF STONE.
HMM,
HOW-EVER, THIS TERRAIN IS PERFECT FOR A MOTOR-RAD*.

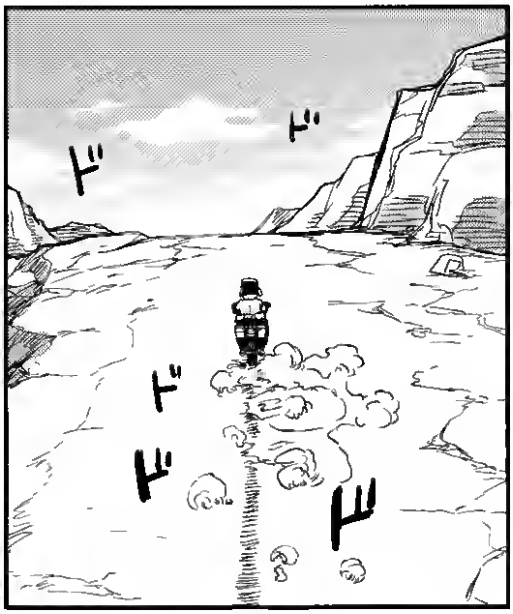
*Motorrad (A two-wheeled vehicle. Only to note that it cannot fly).

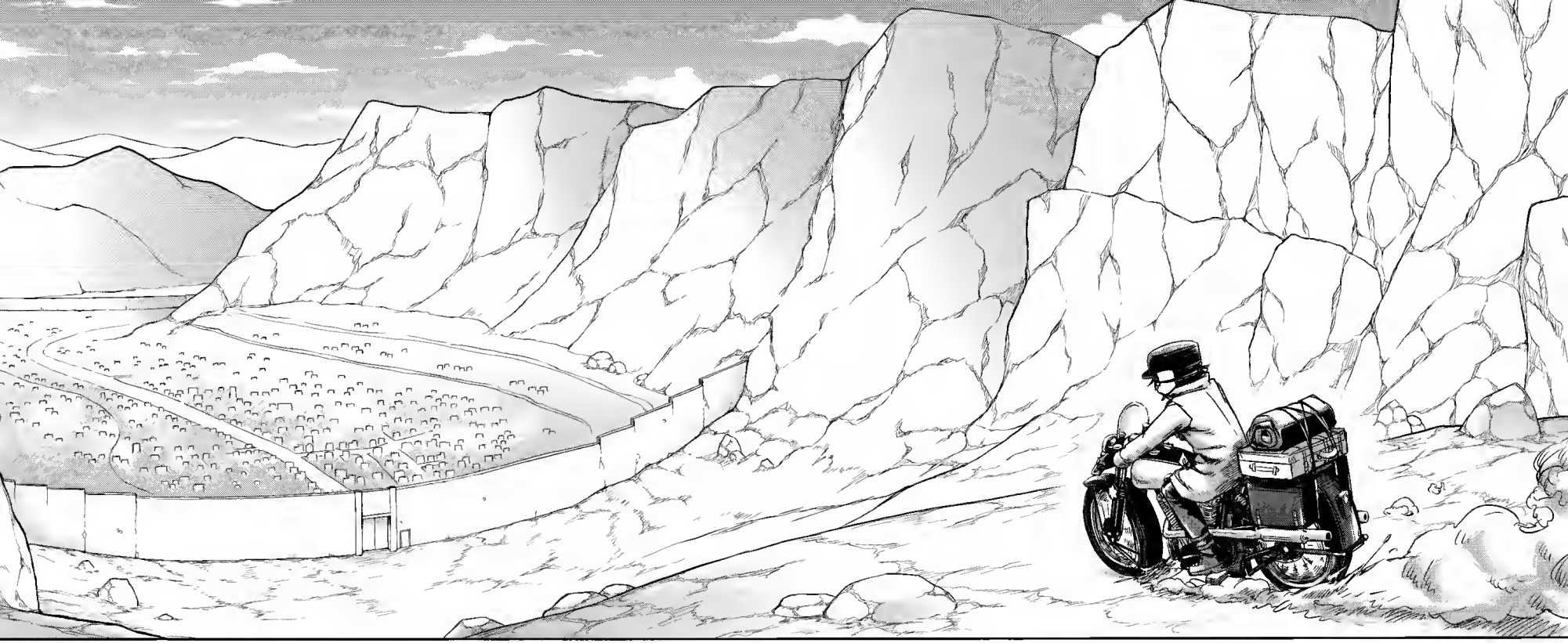
SO KINO,
IF IT TURNS OUT THAT THIS COUNTRY IS STILL INTACT AND DESERTED, ARE YOU PLANNING ON LIVING THERE?
WHO KNOWS? THAT MIGHT NOT BE SO BAD.
WELL, I HAVE YOU, HER-MES.
IT'D BE LONELY ALL BY YOUR-SELF THOUGH.

I HOPE YOU TWO WOULD GET ALONG, HERMES.
WHAT IF CANON* COULD TALK?
WE SHOULD INCREASE THE POPULATION SOMEHOW, BUT THAT SEEMS UNLIKELY.
IT'D STILL BE LONELY WITH JUST A MOTORRAD FOR COMPANY.

*Canon (The name of Kino's persuader. A persuader is a gun).


MAKE SURE THEY'RE COOL NAMES.
THEN I'D START THINKING UP NAMES FOR YOUR CHILDREN.
WHAT IF WE GET ALONG *TOO* WELL AND END UP GETTING MARRIED?





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HUH? HOW DO WE GET IN?

MAYBE FROM THE BACK?

WE MIGHT HAVE TO CIRCLE AROUND TO THE OTHER SIDE.

(CREAK)

HUH?

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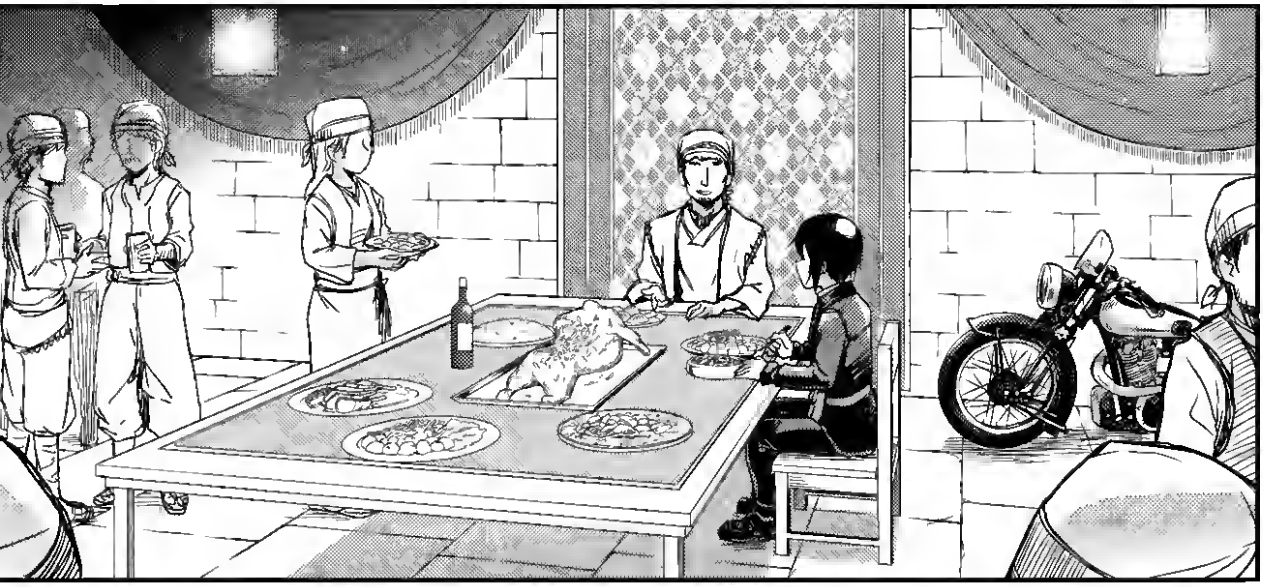
TRAVELER! WELCOME! WE'RE SO GLAD TO HAVE YOU!

KYAAAH, YOU'RE SO HOT, TRAVELER! BE MY BOYFRIEND!
TAKE IT EASY HERE!
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING ONE! THANK YOU FOR SUCH A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!
SO THAT'S A MOTORRAD!
HOW RARE! IT'S BEEN THIRTEEN YEARS SINCE A TRAVELER LAST CAME TO OUR COUNTRY!

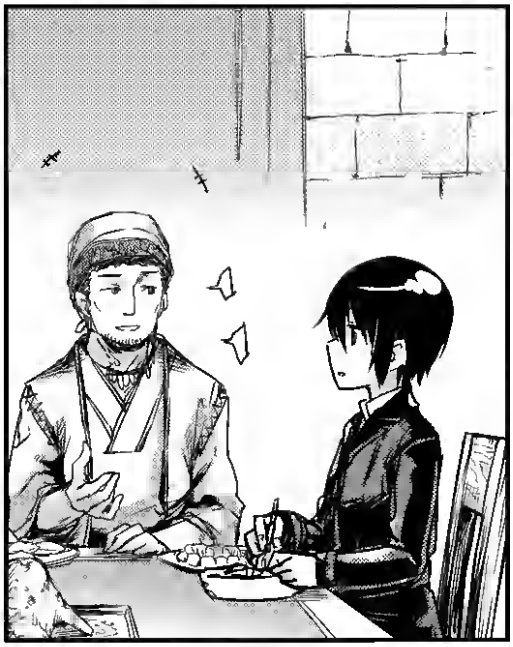
MAYBE THEY CAME BACK FROM WHEREVER THEY WENT?
I DON'T KNOW ...
ISN'T THIS JUST A REGULAR COUNTRY FULL OF PEOPLE?
WHAT IS ALL THIS, KINO?

HUH?

THEN WHAT IF THEY ASK US TO TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY FOR THE FOOD MASTER TOOK!?
UHH, I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT WON'T HAP-PEN...



CUR-RENTLY, WE HAVE A POPU-LATION OF AROUND FIVE THOU-SAND.



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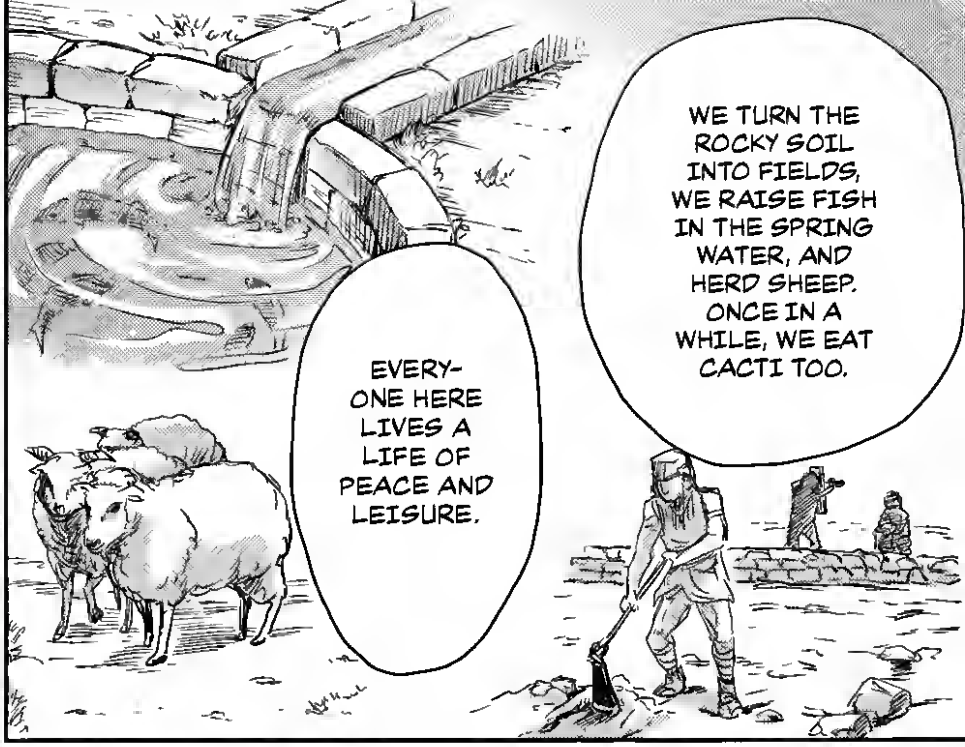
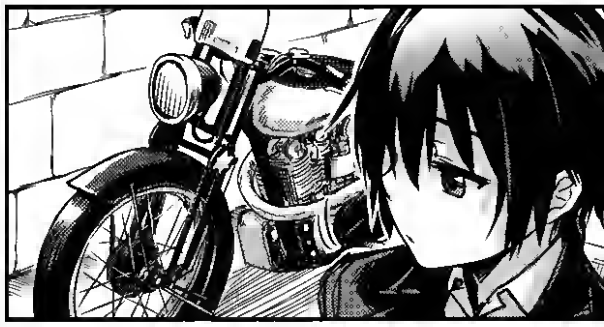

EVERY-ONE HERE LIVES A LIFE OF PEACE AND LEISURE.
WE TURN THE ROCKY SOIL INTO FIELDS, WE RAISE FISH IN THE SPRING WATER, AND HERD SHEEP. ONCE IN A WHILE, WE EAT CACTI TOO.

EXCEL-LENT QUES-TION!
WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR ABOUT EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS NOW!



HOW LONG HAVE YOU ALL BEEN LIVING HERE?

OUR ANCESTORS WERE A GROUP OF EIGHTY OR SO PEOPLE FROM SOME UNKNOWN PLACE.
USING THEIR INCREDIBLE INGENUITY, THEY TURNED THIS BARREN WASTELAND INTO A COUNTRY.
FOR THE PAST EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS, WE'VE NEVER BEEN AT WAR OR SUFFERED INTERNAL STRIFE. WE'VE SIMPLY JUST GONE ABOUT OUR PEACEFUL WAY OF LIFE.
HAVE YOU EVER... LEFT THIS COUNTRY? THE ENTIRE POPULATION, I MEAN.
OF COURSE NOT! WE'VE LIVED OUR ENTIRE LIVES HERE, EVER SINCE WE FIRST SET DOWN ROOTS.
WE'VE TRACKED THE CHANGE IN OUR POPULATION SINCE THIS COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED.
SO WE HAVE A DETAILED RECORD OF EVERY SINGLE PERSON'S FAMILY TREE!

THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYONE HERE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ALIVE...
...AND THAT'S WHAT THE TRAVELER ASKED!
AHAHA! WHAT A FUNNY THING TO SAY!
WHEN MASTER VISIT-ED.
HOW STRANGE.
DID MASTER LIE?
NO, I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT. SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY REASON TO.
YEAH... ARE YOU POSITIVE YOU AREN'T THINKING OF SOME-WHERE ELSE, KINO?
I CAN'T SAY FOR SURE... BUT THIS COUNTRY MATCHES HER DESCRIPTION, AND I DOUBT THERE ARE MANY OTHER PLACES LIKE IT.
YEAH...
...

Day Two
THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF CHILDREN.
EVERYONE IN THIS COUNTRY MARRIES YOUNG.
ALSO, PLENTY OF COUPLES ARE HAVING CHILDREN, SO THE POPULATION IS BOOMING.
WE HAVE LIMITED SPACE AND RESOURCES, BUT WE STILL HAVE ROOM TO GROW FOR NOW.

Day Three
ALL SET.
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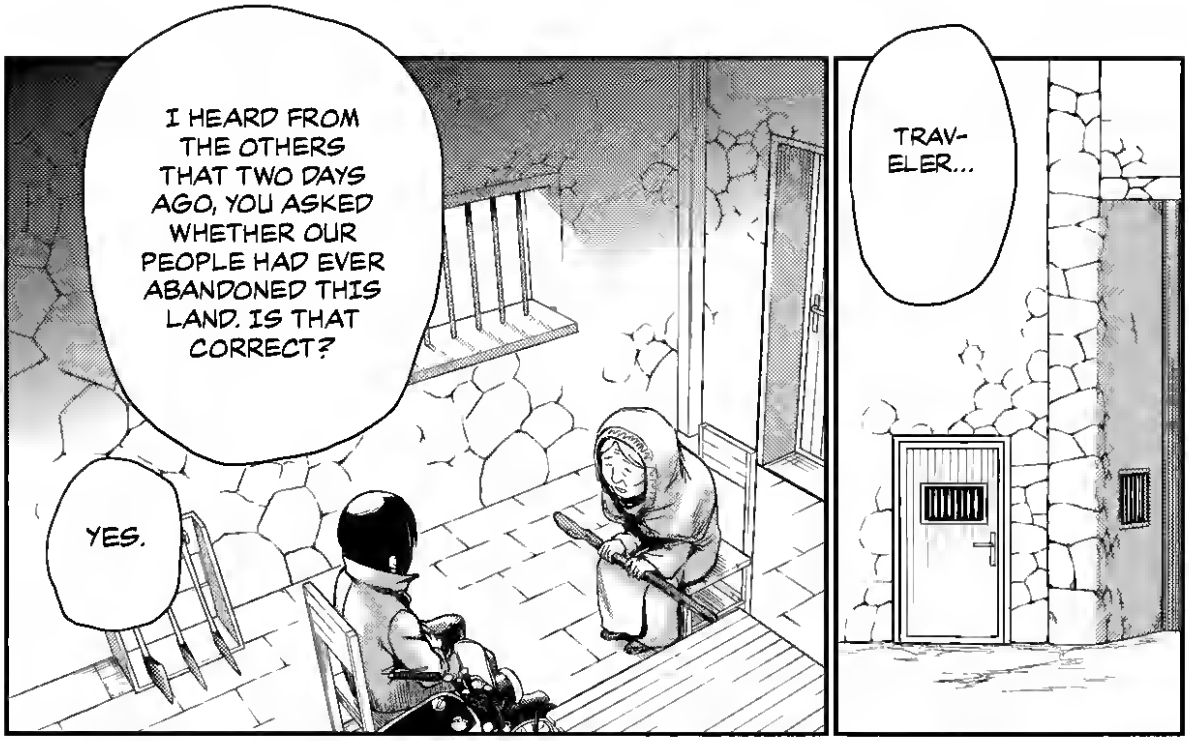
IN THE END, WE NEVER SOLVED THE MYSTERY, KINO.
YEP, BUT IT WAS FUN, SO LET'S CALL IT GOOD.
TRAV-ELER! PLEASE WAIT!
A MESSAGE ARRIVED FROM THE ELDER, WHO EAGERLY WISHES TO MEET YOU.
SHE'S ALREADY ON HER WAY HERE,
SO PLEASE, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO DELAY YOUR DEPARTURE A BIT?

PLEASE REPLY THAT I'D LIKE TO MEET HER TOO.
MAYBE WE'LL FINALLY GET TO THE BOT-TOM OF THINGS.

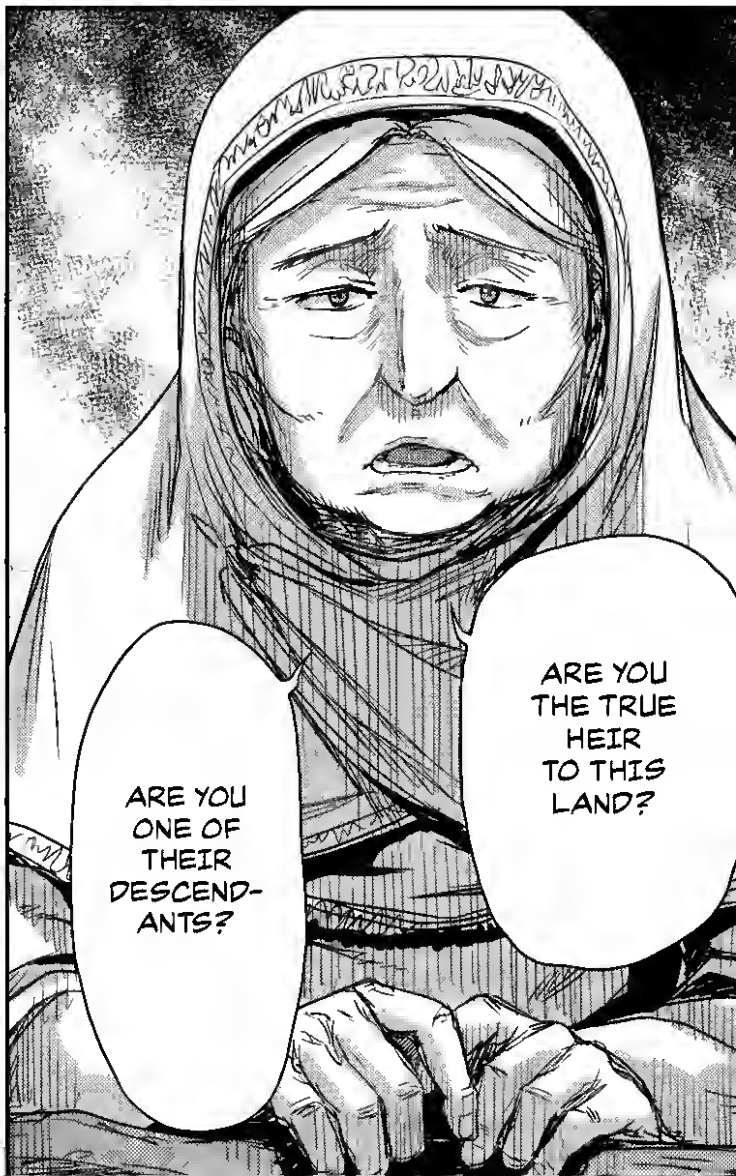
IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU'RE LOOKING WELL.

THIS IS THE ELDER. SHE WAS PREVIOUSLY THIS COUNTRY'S CHIEF, BUT SHE'S NOW RETIRED.

...
EVERYONE, PLEASE LEAVE US ALONE FOR A BIT.


I HEARD FROM THE OTHERS THAT TWO DAYS AGO, YOU ASKED WHETHER OUR PEOPLE HAD EVER ABANDONED THIS LAND. IS THAT CORRECT?
YES.
TRAV-ELER...

NO, I AM NOT. PLEASE BE AT EASE.
I DIDN'T COME HERE TO RECLAIM THIS COUNTRY
OR SCOPE OUT THE SITUA-TION TO RECLAIM IT LATER.


ARE YOU THE TRUE HEIR TO THIS LAND?
ARE YOU ONE OF THEIR DESCEND-ANTS?

WE HEARD ABOUT THIS COUNTRY FROM ANOTHER TRAVELER THAT CAME HERE A LONG TIME AGO.
KINO'S COM-PLETELY UNRELATED! JUST A SIMPLE TRAVELER!
I SWEAR FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART THAT I AM TELLING THE TRUTH.

SO YOU SETTLED INTO THIS COUNTRY AFTER IT WAS ABAN-DONED, RIGHT?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

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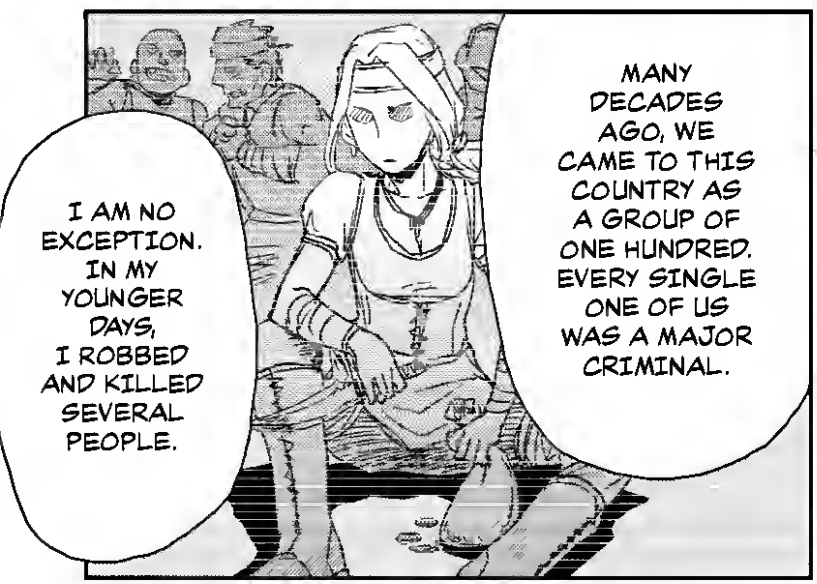
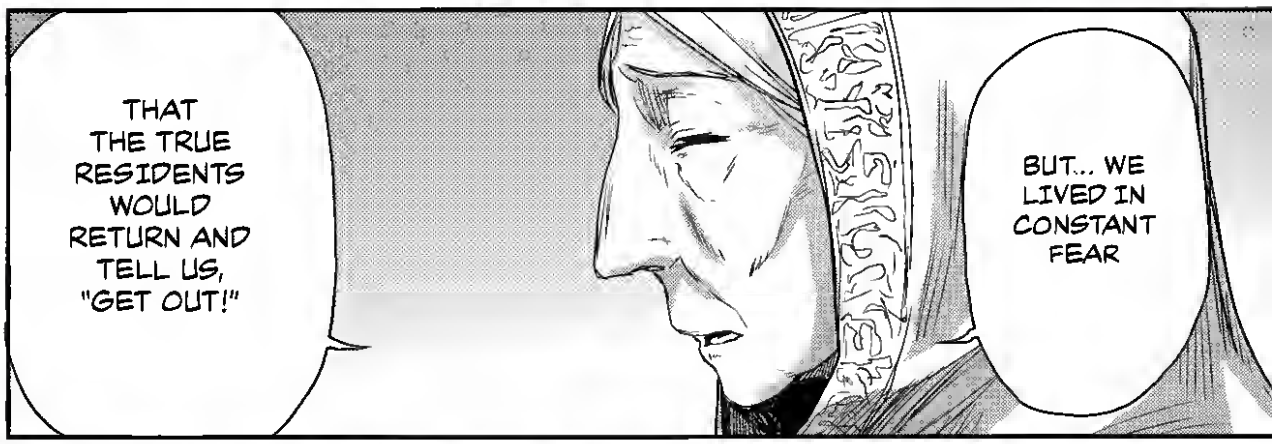
I SEE, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...


MANY DECADES AGO, WE CAME TO THIS COUNTRY AS A GROUP OF ONE HUNDRED. EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US WAS A MAJOR CRIMINAL.
I AM NO EXCEPTION. IN MY YOUNGER DAYS, I ROBBED AND KILLED SEVERAL PEOPLE.

WE SAW IT AS A GIFT FROM THE HEAVENS AND WE VOWED TO CHANGE OUR WAYS.
UNBE-LIEVABLY, THERE WAS NO ONE HERE.
WE CONTINUED TRAVELING, ON THE RUN, UNTIL WE CAME UPON THIS COUNTRY.
THERE WERE NO COUNTRIES WILLING TO TAKE IN A GROUP OF CRIM-INALS


THAT THE TRUE RESIDENTS WOULD RETURN AND TELL US, "GET OUT!"
BUT... WE LIVED IN CONSTANT FEAR

BUT THE ONE THING I STILL DON'T GET IS--
AND THAT YOUR CHILDREN POPULATED THIS COUNTRY TO ITS CURRENT EXTENT,
I UNDER-STAND THAT THIS COUN-TRY WAS ALREADY ABANDONED WHEN YOU SETTLED HERE,

I SEE.
IT WAS ENTIRELY MADE UP.
THE HISTORY THAT EVERY-ONE NOW BELIEVES, RIGHT? FROM EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS AGO?
WE DIDN'T WANT TO TELL OUR CHIL-DREN THAT WE HAD STOLEN THIS COUNTRY.
WE SUDDENLY WISHED WE HAD A MORE GLAM-OUROUS HISTORY.
WHEN CHILDREN WERE BORN, AND IT SEEMED LIKE WE WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE LIVING HERE,
SO HOW DID YOU DECIDE?
DID SOME-ONE GO AND WRITE A NOVEL?
I SEE...
LOOKING BACK NOW, THOSE WERE FUN TIMES.
SO WE THREW AWAY OUR PASTS AND CREATED A FAKE HISTORY FROM SCRATCH, GOING BACK ABOUT SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS, WITH FAMILY TREES AND ALL.

HUH?
WHA?
? ?
WE DECIDED BASED ON WHO WAS LOUDEST.
NO, WE ALL CAME UP WIT IT TOGETH-ER.
AND THEN?
EVERYONE GATHERED AROUND AND THE CHAIRMAN WOULD ASK, "SO WHAT HAP-PENED IN THIS YEAR?" THEN, WE'D ALL SHOUT AT THE TOP OF OUR LUNGS.
WHO-EVER WAS LOUD-EST.
"THIS COUNTRY YOU WERE BORN INTO HAS A PROUD, SEVEN HUNDRED YEAR HISTORY," AND SO ON...
WE CARVED IT INTO STONE TABLETS AND TAUGHT IT TO THE CHIL-DREN.
AND WHAT-EVER GOT SHOUTED THE LOUDEST WAS RECORDED AS HISTORY.
THE CHAIRMAN LISTENED TO EVERY-ONE

MANY YEARS PASSED,
UNTIL EVEN THOSE OF US THAT MADE IT UP BEGAN TO FORGET WHAT WAS REAL AND WHAT WASN'T.
IT WAS FORBIDDEN TO WRITE THE TRUTH ANYWHERE, AND WE CONTINUED TO TEACH OUR CHILDREN LIES...
AND NOW I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT THAT TRULY KNOWS WHAT HAPPENED WHEN WE FIRST SETTLED HERE.
I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT EITHER.
THE-
THE PEOPLE THAT BUILT THIS COUNTRY,
SOON NO ONE HERE WILL KNOW THE TRUTH.
THE PEOPLE THAT SAVED US WHEN WE WERE LOST,
IF THEIR DESCENDANTS EVER RETURN,

AND RIGHTFULLY PROCLAIM, "THIS IS ACTUALLY OUR LAND,"
HOW WILL OUR CHILDREN RE-SPOND?
THE TRUE PAST WILL NEVER BE REVEALED UNLESS THE FALSE PAST IS ERASED.
WHAT WE'VE DONE TO OUR CHILDREN IS IRREP-ARABLE.
RE-GRET-ABLY...
THERE IS NO-THING LEFT I CAN DO ABOUT IT.
I CANNOT RETURN TO THE PAST I'VE ALREADY THROWN AWAY.

EVEN IF IT'S JUST THE TWO OF YOU, PLEASE REMEMBER WHAT REALLY HAPPENED.
RE-MEMBER THAT I WAS A CRIM-INAL.

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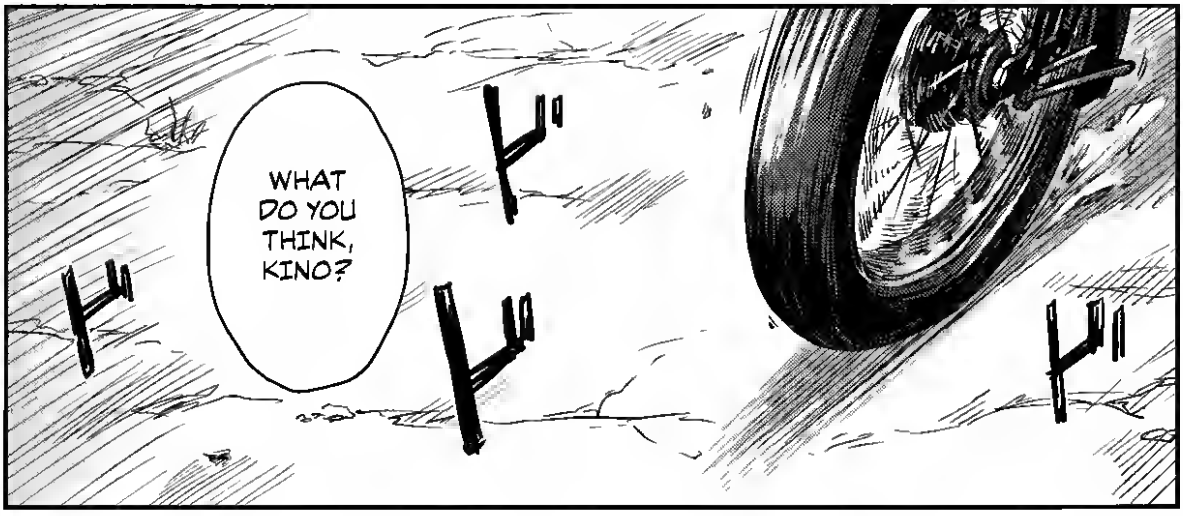
WHAT DO YOU THINK, KINO?
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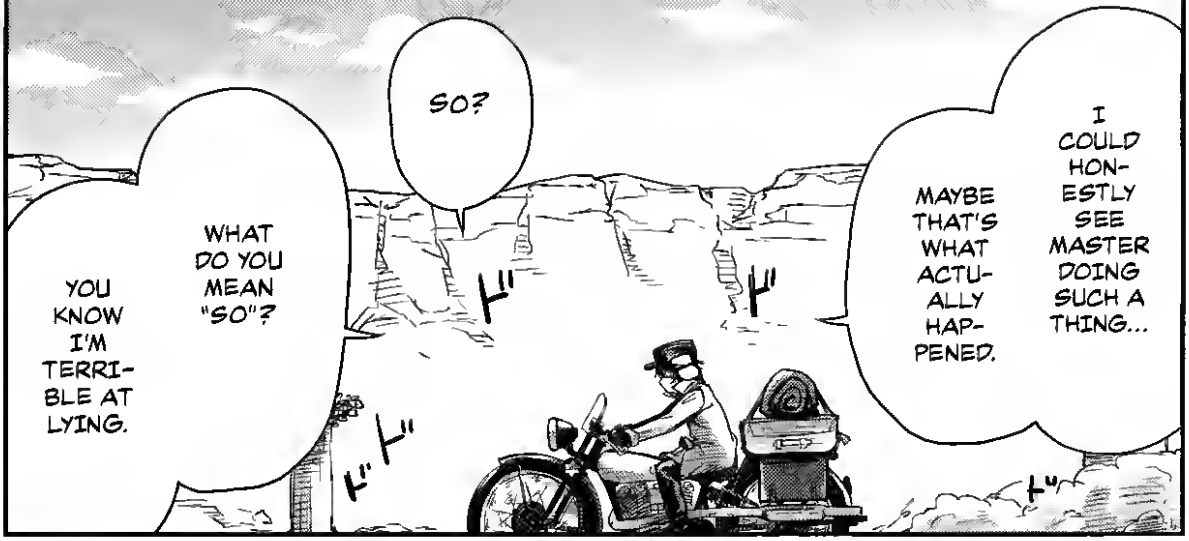
WILL YOU BE ABLE TO REMEMBER EVERYTHING ABOUT THAT COUNTRY AND THAT OLD LADY UNTIL YOU DIE?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW...
OF COURSE I WON'T FORGET ANYTIME SOON,
BUT I'M NOT CONFIDENT I'LL REMEMBER UNTIL I DIE.
I FIGURED.
YOU KNOW, THAT WOMAN WILL DIE WORRYING ABOUT THE COUNTRY'S RIGHTFUL CITIZENS COMING BACK.
COULDN'T YOU HAVE TOLD HER ONE LITTLE LIE?
HMM? LIKE WHAT?

A TERRIFYING TRAVELER, KNOWN ONLY AS "MASTER,"
LOST HER TEMPER AND SLAUGHTERED EVERY SOUL IN THAT COUNTRY.
THE ELDER MIGHT HAVE FINALLY FOUND PEACE BELIEVING THAT NO ONE WILL EVER RETURN.

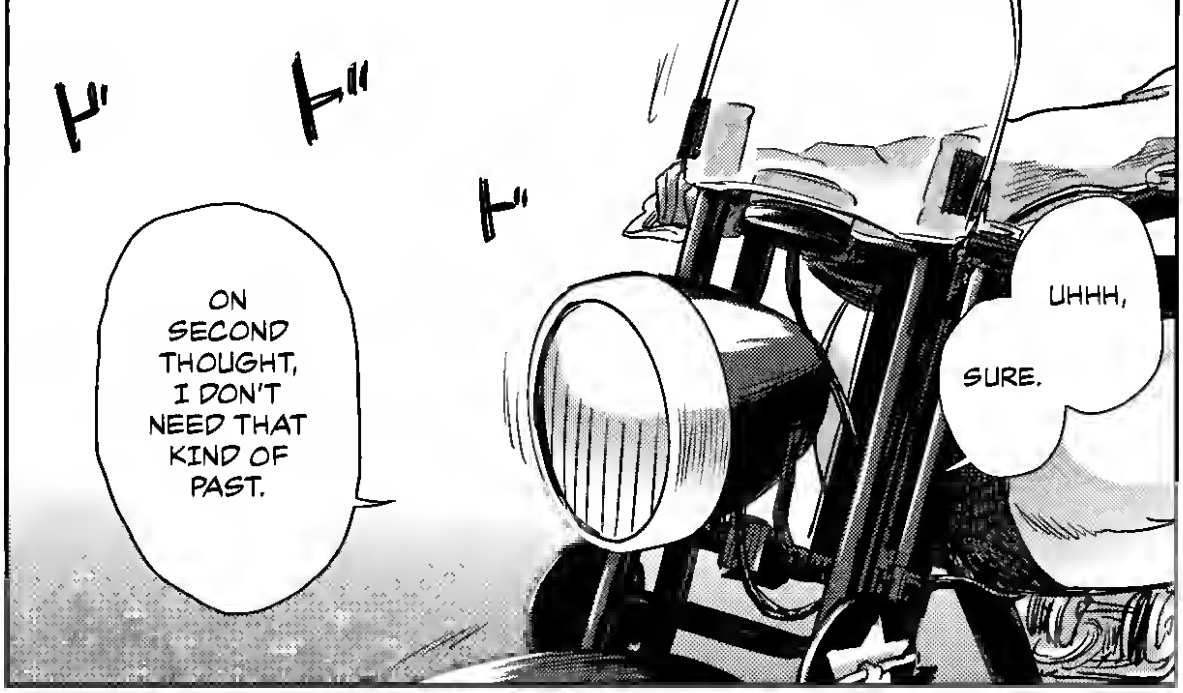

I COULD HONESTLY SEE MASTER DOING SUCH A THING...
MAYBE THAT'S WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED.
SO?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "SO"?
YOU KNOW I'M TERRIBLE AT LYING.

BUT IF YOU KEEP LYING, THEN IT'LL BECOME REAL HISTORY,
JUST LIKE IN THAT COUNTRY.
WHAT MAKES SOMETHING "REAL HISTORY"?
YEAH, I GUESS.
WHEN EVERYONE BELIEVES IT'S TRUE, RIGHT?

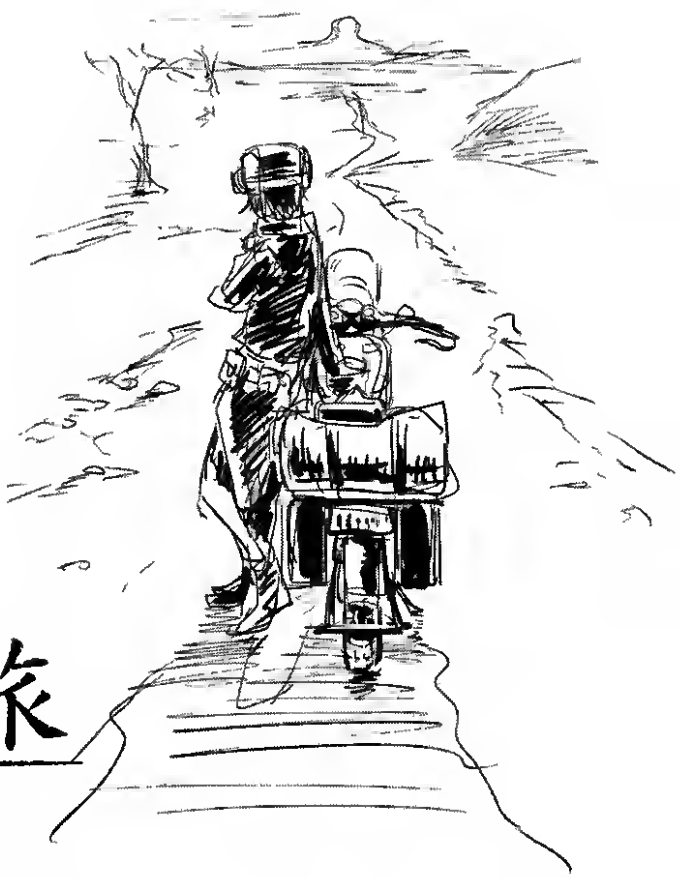
...
YEAH, I GUESS.

KINO, YOU SHOULD MAKE UP SOME HISTORY TOO!
WHAT?
IF YOU COME UP WITH A COOL BACKSTORY, YOU CAN GO AROUND BOASTING THAT YOU HAVE A PAST TO BE PROUD OF!
YOU CAN BRAG ABOUT IT IN OTHER COUN-TRIES! SAY YOU'RE A WEALTHY PRINCESS FROM A DISTANT LAND!
WHY DON'T WE GO WITH THAT FROM NOW ON?
LET'S NOT.
I DON'T NEED THAT KIND OF GLAMOR-OUS, MADE-UP PAST.
I'M PERFECTLY CONTENT WITH JUST LIVING AND TRAVELING LIKE WE ALWAYS DO.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, HERMES? DO YOU WANT A GLAMOR-OUS PAST?
WELL, I'LL TAKE WHAT I CAN GET.

"ALWAYS RISES AT THE CRACK OF DAWN, IN RECORD TIME, WITHOUT NEEDING ANYONE TO WAKE HIM UP."
"HE'S SO RELIABLE, I DON'T EVEN NEED AN ALARM CLOCK."
"THE MOTORRAD KNOWN AS HERMES--"
OKAY THEN, I'LL COME UP WITH ONE FOR YOU.
YEAH! YEAH!
OH! YES! PLEASE DO!
WHAT'S WRONG, HERMES, O YE OF EARLY RISING?
...
OH, STOP. THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY. THESE DAYS, I'M NOTHING MORE THAN A SIMPLE MOTORRAD.
THAT'S NOT TRUE! I KNOW YOU'RE A MOTORRAD THAT CAN DO ANYTHING YOU SET YOUR MIND TO!
COME ON, THINK BACK TO YOUR PAST!
START-ING TOMOR-ROW, I WANT YOU TO BELIEVE IN YOUR-SELF.



Chapter Three「A Land with a Past」-What We Have Taught.- / END



キノの旅

the Beautiful World

Kino's Journey
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